

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020052-9

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

PAGE OF PAGES

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CIA/OCI/WHITE 740221

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMEE,
 STATE PCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION
 [REDACTED]

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3 25X1A

DATE: 23 FEB 74

SUBJECT: UNSEASONABLE WEATHER THREATENS SOVIET GRAIN CROP

REF: 1 :

A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON IZVESTIA YESTERDAY IMPLIES THAT MELTING SNOW, FLOODING, AND ICE CRUSTS THREATEN THIS YEAR'S SOVIET WINTER GRAIN CROP. ALTHOUGH CLOTHING AND SPECIAL GROUNDS FOR ALARM AND CONCERN," THE ARTICLE ORDERED FARMERS TO DRAIN FLOODED FIELDS IMMEDIATELY AND PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT SEVERE FRONTS COULD KILL CROPS DEPRIVED OF PROTECTIVE SNOW COVER.

UNSEASONABLE AND CHANGEABLE WEATHER HAS ALREADY LEFT THE CROP VULNERABLE. AN UNUSUALLY RAINY AUTUMN DELAYED SOME SOWING LAST YEAR, AND AN EARLY COULD SPELL SLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCED THE HARDINESS OF THE GRAIN IN MOST OF THE EUROPEAN USSR. AT THIS

DATE:

ORIG:

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RELEASING OFFICER

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IN LATE DECEMBER FOLLOWED BY A SUDDEN COLD SPELL IN MID-JANUARY
 DAMAGED SOWINGS IN THE NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE, THE CENTRAL BLACK
 EARTH REGION, AND THE LOWER VOLGA. THE SNOW COVER NEEDED TO
 INSULATE THE PLANTS FROM KILLING AIR TEMPERATURES WAS THIN OR
 ABSENT OVER MOST OF THE AREA THROUGH JANUARY. NON-ABOVE-NORMAL
 TEMPERATURES FOR FEBRUARY HAVE COMPLETELY MELTED THE SNOW IN KEY
 AREAS. STANDING WATER AND ICE CRUSTS CAN SUFFOCATE SEEDLINGS
 IN SOME PLACES. MORE THREATENING TO ALL REGIONS, HOWEVER, IS
 THE WARM WEATHER WHICH REDUCES PLANT RESISTANCE TO EXTREME COLD.
 STILL LIKELY TO OCCUR.

ALTHOUGH THE WINTER GRAIN AREA LOST TO WINTERKILL COULD
 EXCEED THE LONG-RUN AVERAGE OF 20 PERCENT, A LARGE PLANTING LAST
 FALL AND THE RESEEDING OF DAMAGED AREAS WITH SPRING GRAIN COULD
 STILL PRODUCE A NORMAL OR ABOVE-NORMAL 1974 GRAIN CROP. RESEEDING
 IS CENTERED ON FEED GRAINS, HOWEVER, SO THAT THE BREADGRAIN
 HARVEST COULD FALL BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. E-2 IMPDET.

E SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR AND [REDACTED]

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DATE: 01 000 78

ORIG: [REDACTED]

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